

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3163

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, GT, UK, BH

SUBJ: CALL BY BELIZE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

REF: STATE 235799

SUMMARY. BELIZE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ROGERS, ATTORNEY GENERAL MUSA AND OPPOSITION LEADER LINDO CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN OCTOBER 21. ROGERS DESCRIBED THE "VITAL IMPORTANCE" OF THE US ATTITUDE AND MADE A LOW-KEY PITCH FOR US SUPPORT. ROGERS SAID THE BELIZE RESOLUTION, NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN CO-SPONSORS 1) RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF BELIZE TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE, 2) ACKNOWLEDGES THE INVIOABILITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BELIZE 3) CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE PRINCIPLES AND 4) ASKS FOR A REPORT TO THE NEXT UNGA. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE US MUST BE SEEN TO BE OPEN MINDED AND EVEN HANDED, SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD PLAY THE ROLE WE SHOULD IN THE MATTER, EXPRESSED OUR DESIRE TO BE AGREEABLE TO ALL PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE AND SAID THAT AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL STAND UP AND BE COUNTED. END SUMMARY.

1. DESCRIBING THE US ATTITUDE AS "VITALLY IMPORTANT," ROGERS MADE A LOW-KEY PITCH FOR US SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION ON BELIZE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD SEEN MANY DELEGATIONS AND ALL ASKED WHAT THE

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POSITION OF THE US IS ON THE MATTER.

2. ROGERS CITED US MEDIATION BEFORE 1965 AND LASTING UNTIL 1968 WHEN THE REPORT WAS REJECTED BY ALL PARTIES. HE EXMPHASIZED THE DESIRE OF THE GOB TO SEEK A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO ITS PROBLEM.

3. REFERRING TO THE LIMA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC), RESOLUTION ON BELIZE, ROGERS REPORTED THAT HIS SOUNDINGS IN NEW YORK HAVE REVEALED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR THE NAC POSITION ON BELIZE. HE STATED THAT THE CARIBBEANS WILL COSPONSOR A RESOLUTION WHICH WILL 1) SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE BELIZEAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE, AND 2) WILL CALL UPON THE UK AND GUATEMALA TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, ROGERS ADDED THAT THE RESOLUTION WILL SUPPORT THE "INVIOLABILITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BELIZE" (OR WORDS ALONG THOSE LINES, HE SAID) AND CALL UPON THE PARTIES TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES STATED ABOVE. THE RESOLUTION ALSO CALLS FOR A REPORT TO THE NEXT UNGA.

4. ROGERS SAID THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN COSPONSORS AND HAS ALSO BEEN TRANSMITTED TO BELIZE AND LONDON. HE SAID HE EXPECTED TO HAVE APPROVAL OF IT IN ABOUT A WEEK AND THAT WE WOULD BE THE FIRST DELEGATION TO SEE IT.

5. ROGERS SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER PRICE WILL ARRIVE ON NOVEMBER 5 WHEN DEBATE ON THE BELIZE RESOLUTION IS EXPECTED IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE BELIZE QUESTION WITH UK PERMREP IVOR RICHARD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THAT HE HAD CALLED WASHINGTON ONCE HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT ROGERS WAS COMING TO SEE HIM, THAT WE ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE QUESTION OF BELIZE AND THAT HE KNOWS OF THE ROLE WE HAVE PLAYED IN THE PAST. HE SAID IN ORDER TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE THE US MUST BE SEEN TO BE OPEN MINDED AND EVEN HANDED AND THAT WE HOPE FOR A PEACEABLE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

6. ROGERS REPLIED TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE SITUATION WITH GUATEMALA, THAT GUATEMALA TOO HAS A RESOLUTION. HE SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION, SHOWN TO HIM BY ONE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN

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COUNTRIES, IS VERY BRIEF; IT CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION -- BUT NOT IN THE CASE OF BELIZE. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN EMPHASIZED THAT WE HAVE FRIENDS IN CENTRAL AMERICA, INCLUDING BELIZE, AND THAT WE ARE CLOSE FRIENDS OF THE UK. HE SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD PLAY THE ROLE WE SHOULD IN BRINGING ABOUT A PEACEABLE SOLUTION BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT DO FOR US TO COMMENT ON THE MERITS OF THE CASE AT THIS TIME. HE ADDED THAT WE'LL BE AGREEABLE TO EVERYONE AND THAT WHEN THE

TIMES COMES THE US WILL STAND UP AND BE COUNTED.

7. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO ROGERS AND TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO COME AND SEE HIM WHENEVER THEY WANT AND NOT TO STAND ON CEREMONY. ROGERS CONCLUDED THAT, IN THE YEAR OF THE US BICENTENNIAL, BELIZE HOPES TO EMERGE AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION.

8. ROBERT LESLIE, ASSISTANT TO MINISTER OF STATE SHOMAN, PRESENTED USUN OFFICER WITH COPIES OF AN INFORMATION PACKAGE ENTITLED "HELP FREE BELIZE." (POUCHED TO TEFFT IO/UNP, PLATT ARA/CAR, EMBASSY GUATEMALA AND EMBASSY LONDON).

9. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN CONSIDERED IN RETROSPECT THAT HIS CORDIALITY MAY HAVE CONVEYED THE IMPLICATION OF US SUPPORT FOR THE BELIZE POSITION. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN IS SEEKING AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO SEPAK WITH ROGERS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HE HAD IN FACT BEEN NON-COMMITTAL.
MOYNIHAN

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